

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-55 (Canceled)

56. (Currently Amended) A method of authorizing a portable communication device to access a network resource, the method being performed at a network management system in communication with the portable communication device via a network, the method comprising:

receiving, from a portable communication device via a network, a request to access a network resource, the request being configured with network settings that do not correspond to the network;

determining, on a processor, whether the portable communication device is authorized to access the requested network resource, the determination being based at least in part on comparing an attribute included in the request to a user profile database; and

redirecting, upon determining that the portable communication device is not authorized to access the requested network resource, the portable network device to an authentication system, by performing a method comprising:

storing the request to access the network resource;

communicating a modified request to a redirection server, the modified request being based upon the request to access the network resource;

receiving, from the redirection server, a browser redirect message comprising a resource locator that identifies the authentication system, the browser redirect message configured to cause the portable communication device to be redirected to the authentication system; and

sending, to the portable communication device, a modified browser redirect message based upon the browser redirect message, the modified browser redirect message configured to be responsive to the request to access the network resource indicate that it was sent by the network resource;

whereby the portable communication device is enabled, by being redirected to the authentication system, to submit authentication-related information so that the portable communication system may be authorized to access the requested network resource.

57. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 56, further comprising updating the user profile database upon determining that the portable communication device is entitled to access the requested network resource.

58. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 56, further comprising maintaining in the user profile database a historical log of the portable communication device's access to the destination network.

59. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 56, wherein the request is an HTTP request.

60. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 56, wherein determining whether to authorize the portable communication device to access the requested network resource further comprises denying the portable communication device access where the user profile database indicates that the portable communication device may not access the destination network.

61. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 56, wherein the attribute included in the request is one of a port, circuit ID, VLAN ID or MAC address.

62. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 56, further comprising:
receiving, from the portable communication device, a second request to access a second network resource; and
determining that the portable communication device is authorized to access the second network resource, based at least upon a MAC address included in the second request.

63. **(Currently Amended)** A network management system configured to manage authorization of a portable communication device to access a network resource, the system comprising:

a network communications interface configured to receive, from a portable communication device via a network, a request to access a network resource, the request comprising a resource locator that identifies the network resource, the request being configured with network settings that do not correspond to the network; and

a processor configured to determine whether the portable communication device is authorized to access the requested network resource, the determination being based at least in part on comparing an attribute included in the request to a user profile database;

the processor further configured to redirect, upon determining that the portable communication device is not authorized to access the requested network resource, the portable network device to an authentication system, by performing a method comprising:

storing the request to access the network resource;

communicating a modified request to a redirection server, the modified request being based upon the request to access the network resource;

receiving, from the redirection server, a browser redirect message comprising a second resource locator that identifies the authentication system, the browser redirect message configured to cause the portable communication device to be redirected to the authentication system; and

sending, to the portable communication device, a modified browser redirect message based upon the browser redirect message, the modified browser redirect message configured to be responsive to the request to access indicating it originated from the network resource;

whereby the portable communication device is enabled, by being redirected to the authentication system, to submit authentication-related

information so that the portable communication system may be authorized to access the requested network resource.

64. **(Previously Presented)** The network management system of Claim 63, wherein the processor is further configured to maintain, in the user profile database, a historical log of the portable communication device's access to the destination network.

65. **(Previously Presented)** The network management system of Claim 63, wherein the request is an HTTP request.

66. **(Previously Presented)** The network management system of Claim 63, wherein determining whether to authorize the portable communication device to access the requested network resource further comprises denying the portable communication device access where the user profile database indicates that the portable communication device may not access the destination network.

67. **(Previously Presented)** The network management system of Claim 63, wherein the attribute included in the request is one of a port, circuit ID, VLAN ID or MAC address.

68. **(Previously Presented)** The network management system of Claim 63, wherein the network interface is further configured to receive, from the portable communication device, a second request to access a second network resource, and wherein the processor is further configured to determine that the portable communication device is authorized to access the second network resource, based at least upon a MAC address included in the second request.

69. **(New)** The system of Claim 63, wherein the user profile database further stores information relating to an authorized time period associated with the portable communication device, and wherein the determination of whether the portable communication device is authorized to access the requested network resource is further based on an amount of time that has elapsed in relation to the authorized time period stored in the user profile database.

70. **(New)** The system of Claim 63, wherein the attribute included in the request comprises a link-layer header of a network packet, and wherein the determination of whether the portable communication device is authorized to access

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the requested network resource is based both on the link-layer header of the network packet and on identification information provided automatically by a browser of the portable communication device.

71. **(New)** The method of Claim 56, wherein the modified request comprises a change to one or more attributes within the request.

72. **(New)** The method of Claim 71, wherein the request is a network packet.

73. **(New)** The method of Claim 72, wherein the one or more attributes within the request are one or more of a source address, a checksum, and an application specific parameter.

74. **(New)** The system of Claim 63, wherein the modified request comprises a change to one or more attributes within the request.

75. **(New)** The system of Claim 74, wherein the request is a network packet.

76. **(New)** The system of Claim 75, wherein the one or more attributes within the request are one or more of a source address, a checksum, and an application specific parameter.

77. **(New)** A method of accessing a network resource by a portable communication device, the method performed at a network management system in communication with the portable communication device, the method comprising:

receiving, from a portable communication device, a request to access a network resource;

determining, on one or more processors, whether the portable communication device is authorized to access the requested network resource, the determination being based at least in part on comparing an attribute included in the request to a user profile database; and

redirecting, upon determining that the portable communication device is not authorized to access the requested network resource, the portable network device to an authentication system, by performing a method comprising:

communicating a modified request to a redirection server, the modified request being based upon the request to access the network resource;

receiving, from the redirection server, a browser redirect message comprising a resource locator that identifies the authentication system, the browser redirect message configured to cause the portable communication device to be redirected to the authentication system; and

sending, to the portable communication device, a modified browser redirect message based upon the browser redirect message, the modified browser redirect message configured to indicate that it was sent by the network resource;

whereby the portable communication device is enabled, by being redirected to the authentication system, to submit authentication-related information so that the portable communication system may be authorized to access the requested network resource.

78. **(New)** The method of Claim 77, further comprising updating the user profile database upon determining that the portable communication device is entitled to access the requested network resource.

79. **(New)** The method of Claim 77, further comprising maintaining in the user profile database a historical log of the portable communication device's access to the destination network.

80. **(New)** The method of Claim 77, wherein the request is an HTTP request.

81. **(New)** The method of Claim 77, wherein determining whether to authorize the portable communication device to access the requested network resource further comprises denying the portable communication device access where the user profile database indicates that the portable communication device may not access the destination network.

82. **(New)** The method of Claim 77, wherein the attribute included in the request is one of a port, circuit ID, VLAN ID or MAC address.

83. **(New)** The method of Claim 77, further comprising:

receiving, from the portable communication device, a second request to access a second network resource; and

determining that the portable communication device is authorized to access the second network resource, based at least upon a MAC address included in the second request.

84. **(New)** The method of Claim 77, wherein the modified request comprises a change to one or more attributes within the request.

85. **(New)** The method of Claim 84, wherein the request is a network packet.

86. **(New)** The method of Claim 85, wherein the one or more attributes within the request are one or more of a source address, a checksum, and an application specific parameter.

87. (New) A network management system configured to manage access of a portable communication device to a network resource, the system comprising:

 a network communications interface configured to receive, from a portable communication device, a request to access a network resource, the request comprising a resource locator that identifies the network resource; and

 one or more processors configured to determine whether the portable communication device is authorized to access the requested network resource, the determination being based at least in part on comparing an attribute included in the request to a user profile database;

 the one or more processors further configured to redirect, upon determining that the portable communication device is not authorized to access the requested network resource, the portable network device to an authentication system, by performing a method comprising:

 communicating a modified request to a redirection server, the modified request being based upon the request to access the network resource;

 receiving, from the redirection server, a browser redirect message comprising a second resource locator that identifies the authentication system, the browser redirect message configured to cause the portable communication device to be redirected to the authentication system; and

 sending, to the portable communication device, a modified browser redirect message based upon the browser redirect message, the modified browser redirect message indicating it originated from the network resource;

 whereby the portable communication device is enabled, by being redirected to the authentication system, to submit authentication-related information so that the portable communication system may be authorized to access the requested network resource.

88. **(New)** The network management system of Claim 87, wherein the processor is further configured to maintain, in the user profile database, a historical log of the portable communication device's access to the destination network.

89. **(New)** The network management system of Claim 87, wherein the request is an HTTP request.

90. **(New)** The network management system of Claim 87, wherein determining whether to authorize the portable communication device to access the requested network resource further comprises denying the portable communication device access where the user profile database indicates that the portable communication device may not access the destination network.

91. **(New)** The network management system of Claim 87, wherein the attribute included in the request is one of a port, circuit ID, VLAN ID or MAC address.

92. **(New)** The network management system of Claim 87, wherein the network interface is further configured to receive, from the portable communication device, a second request to access a second network resource, and wherein the processor is further configured to determine that the portable communication device is authorized to access the second network resource, based at least upon a MAC address included in the second request.

93. **(New)** The system of Claim 87, wherein the user profile database further stores information relating to an authorized time period associated with the portable communication device, and wherein the determination of whether the portable communication device is authorized to access the requested network resource is further based on an amount of time that has elapsed in relation to the authorized time period stored in the user profile database.

94. **(New)** The system of Claim 87, wherein the attribute included in the request comprises a link-layer header of a network packet, and wherein the determination of whether the portable communication device is authorized to access the requested network resource is based both on the link-layer header of the network packet and on identification information provided automatically by a browser of the portable communication device.

95. **(New)** The system of Claim 87, wherein the modified request comprises a change to one or more attributes within the request.

96. **(New)** The system of Claim 95, wherein the request is a network packet.

97. **(New)** The system of Claim 96, wherein the one or more attributes within the request are one or more of a source address, a checksum, and an application specific parameter.

98. **(New)** The system of Claim 87, wherein the one or more processors are further configured to store the request to access the network resource.

99. **(New)** The system of Claim 87, wherein the portable communication device communicates with the network communications interface via a network.

100. **(New)** The system of Claim 77, wherein redirecting further comprises storing the request to access the network resource.

101. **(New)** The system of Claim 77, wherein receiving, from a portable communication device, a request to access a network resource comprises receiving, from a portable communication device via a network, a request to access a network resource.